

**SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, July 12, 2016

**ATTENDANCE**

**Supervisors:** Jerry Scheele, Jaki Shrauger, Wendy Knopp, Tom Miller

**Absent:** Randy James

**Associate Supervisors:**

**SCD Staff:** Vicki Carter, Cori Turntine, Ty Meyer, Eric Choker, Charlie Peterson, Pat Munts

**Guests:** Brian Werst, legal counsel; Rich Baden, Former SCD Director; Rich Edelen, NRCS

Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Scheele presented the agenda for board approval. Vicki Carter recommended financial overview be held in August due to the absence of Chad Greif, BIAS.

**Motion Miller/ Shrauger to accept the agenda as published with the exception of the Financial Overview which will be moved to the August Board meeting. Motion carried.**

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the June 14, 2016 board meeting had previously been distributed for review.

**Motion Shrauger/Knopp to accept the June 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Carter noted the bank statements have not been received from the bank so Auditor Shrauger was unable to review them. Therefore, she requested the Board to postpone June's Treasurer's Report. Shrauger presented the Accounts Payable report in the amount of \$66,971.80.

**Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the accounts payable as presented and to postpone the approval of the June TREASURER'S REPORT. Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY**

**Public Comments/Introductions**

Chair Scheele welcomed Rich Baden, former SCD Executive Director to the meeting. Baden inquired about the SRF loan program and asked if Department of Ecology (DOE) still provided 0% interest if repaid within five years. Ty Meyer commented that these terms have changed. With our current loan we can lower our interest rate from 2.6% to 1.5% if the entire loan is repaid within a five year period.

Carter asked Rich Edelen, NRCS, about the status of FSA since the regional office has lost a number of staff. Edelen mentioned there are a few of people in training but that it may be awhile before they fill all of the positions.

**GOVERNANCE CULTURE**

**Board Position Election**

The Board discussed, nominated and voted for the following Board positions: Chair Scheele, Vice

Chair Miller, Auditor Shrauger, and members Wendy Knopp and Randy James. Votes were submitted by anonymous paper ballot and tallied by Carter.

### **Director's Discussion**

Carter announced that we will be holding a luncheon on Thursday at the Veteran's Learning Farm, followed by a farm walk. All are invited. The farm is located at 7524 S Ellis Rd. Knopp announced that Northwest Farm Credit Services (NWFC) will award funds from their 100% Committed volunteer program during the luncheon.

August 12-13 is the Kleckner Golf Classic with KHQ Anchor Dan Kleckner. Vets on the Farm will be a recipient of proceeds. Veterans can attend for free. Golfers can sign up for \$100 each or \$400 per team. Fee includes banquet and silent auction on Saturday evening. Banquet and silent auction tickets can also be purchased separately for non-golfers. Vets on the Farm has garnered many donations for the auction including a quilt made by Nate Lewis' aunt, wine from ArborCrest, and much more!

Carter described progress on several of our big projects. For the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Walt Edelen attended the Spokane County Board of the County Commissioners meeting this morning and reported that the VSP committee should be finalized in August. The Spokane River Watershed RCPP will be getting started soon. Meyer announced that tomorrow DOE Director Maya Bellon will take part in the ceremonial signing of an MOU between DOE and Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association (PNDSA). With this MOU, the DOE formally recognizes that the new Farmed SMART certification program meets water quality regulations; therefore, a producer in compliance with Farmed SMART is also in compliance with DOE. This program is a big piece of the Palouse RCPP program and also plays a big part in the Spokane River Watershed RCPP program. Charlie Peterson and Eric Choker are working as farm planners through a contract with PNDSA and performing Farmed SMART certification audits.

Peterson added more about how the Greater Spokane River RCPP program will tie in Farmed SMART. He stated that if a producer wants to move forward in getting Farmed SMART certified this will open up the opportunity for additional NRCS programs through the RCPP program. We're on the path for getting practice lists, ranking criteria, hold downs, etc... and then we'll be ready to move forward with our RCPP program once the contracts are all signed.

Carter announced that we received a new Community Development and Building Grant (CDBG) from Spokane County to expand our OSS program. However, this funding is focused on projects in the Spokane Valley. The County will hold the lien on the property instead of SCD. Carter also mentioned that Edelen intends to apply for additional OSS funds through DOE in the next funding round.

Pat Munts is working on a grant application for a 2501 grant (also known as Beginning Farmers and Ranchers grant). If awarded, this grant will be used for internships for the Vets on the Farm program. The cap is \$200,000 for a one year grant. Munts also discussed the NACD grant

application she recently submitted for urban farm technical assistance and outreach.

### **2017 WSCC Funding Approval**

Carter announced that SCD was awarded \$50,000 from Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) for Firewise; \$67,125 for basic funding and implementation was also awarded for the FY17 from WSCC.

**Motion Miller/Knopp to accept 2017 grant funds from WSCC as presented to include \$50,000 for Firewise and \$67,125 for basic funding and implementation funding. Motion carried.**

Meyer asked for approval to move forward with the possibility of selling or trading our tractor and drill. Miller suggested selling the equipment at FMV. Meyer noted that the QuadTrac is worth about \$250,000 and the drill is worth about \$325,000. He also noted that drills don't typically lose more than about 20% in value.

**Motion Miller/Knopp to declare the Case IH tractor and cross slot drill as surplus property. Motion carried.**

**Motion Miller/Shrauger to authorize the Director, based on the input of staff, to market and possibly sell or trade the Case IH tractor and cross slot drill in a commercially reasonable manner. Motion carried.**

## **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

### **2016-17 Annual Plan of Work**

Carter presented a draft last month. A couple minor modifications have been made since this draft was provided and noted that it was submitted to WSCC in draft form in order to comply with their deadline. Miller pointed out that the last page, titled budget, says 17-17 and asked if this is correct. Carter mentioned it should say FY16-17.

**Motion Miller/Shrauger to approve the 2016-17 Annual Plan of Work as presented with the change from 17-17 to 16-17 on the budget page. Motion carried.**

### **2017-21 Updated Long Range Plan**

Carter mentioned the biggest change from last year's long range plan is the addition of the climate change and VSP sections. Additionally, under Policy and Government Operations, Carter added that SCD will be evaluating the rates and charges system compared to an assessment system.

**Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the Long Range Plan as presented. Motion carried.**

### **Correspondence & Announcements**

- Colville Rendezvous Days Parade – August 6
- Pullman Lentil Festival – August 20
- NE Area Meeting – October
- Farm & Food Expo (Small Farms Conference) – November 5, registration is open on our website with 96 different workshops and classes, plus Joel Salatin evening keynote address

## **CLOSING OF MEETING**

### **READING OF THE MOTIONS**

**Motion Miller/ Shrauger to accept the agenda as published with the exception of the Financial Overview which will be moved to the August Board meeting. Motion carried.**

**Motion Shrauger/Knopp to accept the June 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

**Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the accounts payable as presented and to postpone the approval of the June TREASURER'S REPORT. Motion carried.**

**Motion Miller/Knopp to accept 2017 grant funds from WSCC as presented to include \$50,000 for Firewise and \$67,125 for basic funding and implementation funding. Motion carried.**

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**Motion Miller/Shrauger to approve the 2016-17 Annual Plan of Work as presented with the change from 17-17 to 16-17 on the budget page. Motion carried.**

**Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the Long Range Plan as presented. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 2pm. Respectfully submitted by: Cori Turntine

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***Jerry Scheele, Board Chair***

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***Jaki Shrauger, Auditor***